

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND GENERAL PATHOLOGY.

9. *Expulsion of a portion of Intestine by the Rectum.*—About three years ago (1835), Dr. VULPES presented to the Medico Chirurgical Academy of Naples a loop of the small intestines, 36 inches long, discharged by a woman per anum, after an attack of ileus, and at the same time exhibited the patient, who had entirely recovered her health. Recently Dr. V. has communicated to the same body an account of the dissection of the subject of that case; she having died of enteritis, the latter end of December, 1837.

On opening her abdomen there was found in it two pints of sero-purulent fluid. The gall-bladder and the neighbouring portion of the colon had become adherent together. Twenty-seven inches below the pylorus, was seen the adhesion between the two portions of intestine, the intervening portion of which had been removed some years before. These two portions adhered by their peritoneal surfaces, and the canal was thus rendered continuous. The jejunum was enlarged and its parietes thickened; this hypertrophy was particularly remarkable at a spot 24 inches above the cicatrice; there the intestine was two inches in diameter, whilst in its normal state it is at most but one inch. The total length of the intestines was 12 feet 3½ inches. If to this we add the 36 inches of intestine discharged per anum, we have a total length of 15 feet 3¼ inches, which is nearly that of the small intestines of an adult in the normal state. The canal at the point of union of the two portions of intestine was very narrow, and the portion of jejunum above the cicatrix was so dilated and thickened that it resembled a second stomach; its muscular fibres were more marked than those of the œsophagus.

This case is interesting in a physiological, pathological and practical point of view. The mode of adhesion of the two portions of invaginated intestine shows the indication to be fulfilled when enteroraphy is required: the serous membrane of one portion was united to the serous membrane of the other, and this is just what Mr. Jobert has recommended in operations of this character.—*Gaz. Med. de Paris from Observat. Med. di Napoli.*

A number of cases are on record in which a portion of the cylinder of the intestinal canal, comprising all its coats, has been discharged per anum, without the continuity of the canal being destroyed. In Nos. 125 and 127, (Oct. 1835, and April, 1836,) of the *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, Dr. Wm. Thomson has collected abstracts of 43 cases of this kind.

10. *Hæmorrhagic constitution.*—A remarkable example of this presented some time since, in the wards of M. Lisfranc, in a man who was subject every spring and autumn to spontaneous hæmorrhage from the gums and nasal fossæ, which reduced him to the last stage of prostration. This man had seven brothers, all of whom had died from this same affection; and one of his uncles had died from hæmorrhage resulting from the extraction of a tooth. This man for a considerable time seemed at the verge of death, but by the action of styptics he recovered from the attack.—*Journ. des Connaiss. Med. Chirurg.* Aug. 1837.

11. *Researches on the diseases of Old Persons.* By M. PRUS.—The following abstract of a report, made by M. Perry, to the Academy of Medicine of France, at their meeting of the 24th of April last, on a memoir by M. Prus on the diseases of old persons, will be read with interest.

The first point which Mr. Prus endeavours to determine is, what are the diseases most fatal to old persons?

To solve this question he has carefully examined, for three consecutive years, the bodies of 430 patients who died under his care at Bicêtre.* Of these 430, 40 being cases of persons under 60 years of age must be excluded; the remaining

* This hospital is exclusively devoted to the reception of old men and insane men.

390 consisting of persons between the ages of 60 and 90 are alone to be considered.

Mr. Prus arranges these 390 old persons in the following order :

149 died of diseases of the respiratory organs.

101 of diseases of the nervous system.

64 of diseases of the circulating system.

49 of diseases of the digestive organs.

8 of diseases of the liver.

19 of various disorders.

A simple glance at the above table serves to show how false is the notion generally entertained that diseases of the abdomen are the most frequent amongst old people; while they must be ranked in frequency next to those of the respiratory and nervous systems.

The frequency and gravity of organic lesions naturally leads to the question of mortality, which, as might be expected, is very great in an old persons' hospital. Of 1345 patients treated by M. Prus, during three years, he lost 430; but, as has been noticed already, 270 of these patients had not reached the age of 60; hence the mortality of those above 60 years of age, was 390 in 1075, viz.

	Deaths.	Cures.	Total.
From 60 to 64 . . .	22	58	80
65 to 70 . . .	56	133	189
70 to 75 . . .	107	221	328
75 to 80 . . .	123	157	280
80 to 85 . . .	61	84	145
85 to 90 . . .	20	19	39
Above 90 . . .	1	3	4
	<hr/> 390	<hr/> 685	<hr/> 1075

Of the patients which were cured,

216 were treated for disorders of the respiratory organs.

151 for disorders of the nervous centres.

144 for disorders of the digestive organs.

54 for disorders of the circulating system.

22 for skin diseases.

98 for various disorders.

M. Prus concludes his memoir by some considerations on the general pathology of old people. The physician who is in the habit of treating old persons, is, above all things, struck with the absence of reaction in the diseased organ or system. The lung may pass into a state of gray induration, the stomach may become cancerous, without any of the symptoms being developed, which announce their existence in the adult. Even, as Bichat has remarked, an old man may continue to live with a disease of the heart which would quickly kill a young person or an adult. Another remark which deserves attention is the state of isolation of organs in the old person; the consent and sympathy of other organs with the diseased one is not observed in aged people.—*Gazette Médicale de Paris*, April 28, 1838.

12. *Hypertrophy of the Brain in a Child*.—The following interesting case has been recorded in *Siebold's Journal*, (Vol. XVII, for 1838,) by Dr. SCHUPMAN.

A child, about 12 months old, was born in the year 1831, of healthy parents. The labour was difficult and lasted four days. When three months of age the child was given to be nursed from home, and remained well for five or six weeks, but was at the expiration of that time suddenly seized with convulsions, which recurred frequently, and assumed an epileptic appearance. It was at this period that the author was called in, who found the infant labouring under the following symptoms.

The head was remarkably large in proportion to the rest of the body; its tem-

perature did not seem higher than that of any other part. The fontanelles were still widely apart, even more so than in a new-born child, and most of the sutures were separated by an interval of two lines from each other. The other parts of the body were well formed; the appetite good; excretions normally performed; the child slept well and quietly.

From the above symptoms the author concluded that the little patient was affected with chronic hydrocephalus, and on this supposition gave calomel in combination with the flowers of zinc. The use of those remedies was not attended with any benefit; the size of the head continued to increase; the face became of a sickly pale colour; the child lost flesh, but in other respects appeared well. A scrofulous swelling now appeared in the region of the neck, and soon terminated in an abscess which discharged a quantity of thin pus, mixed with blood. This healed under the ordinary applications; but shortly afterwards the child died in a fit of convulsions.

Necropsy 36 hours after death.—The points occupied by the fontanelles appeared much fallen in, although up to the moment of the child's death they were on a level with the rest of the cranium. The bones of the skull were thin, soft, and much injected. The dura mater appeared to be somewhat harder, thicker, and redder than in the normal state; the other membranes were healthy; there was no extravasation of blood on the membranes or surface of the brain.

On dividing the nervous substance, the medullary portion appeared considerably injected, and somewhat softened; the septum lucidum was excessively soft, as was also the corpus callosum. The lateral ventricles contained a very insignificant quantity of fluid; the plexus choroides normal; the pons varolii extremely hard. The state of the cerebellum was exactly similar to that of the cerebrum; its medullary substance being somewhat softened. But the most striking circumstance was the size of the brain, which became apparent the moment the cranium was opened; the convolutions on the upper surface of the brain were remarkably enlarged and developed, and the weight of the brain was above two pounds and a half. The quantity of water in the ventricles was in this case so excessively small that I am forced to regard it as an example of hypertrophy, combined with softening of the central parts.

MATERIA MEDICA AND GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.

13. *On the employment of the oil of the liver of the Ray and Cod.*—The *Bulletin Medical Belge* of January last contains a memoir on this subject, presented to the Society of the Medical and Natural Sciences of Brussels, by Dr. GOUZÉE, and also a report on the same by a committee of the society.

It appears that many German physicians attach great value to the cod liver oil, and boast of its efficacy particularly in rickets, white swellings, and caries of scrofulous subjects; and also in chronic rheumatism. This article has been long a popular remedy, in the north of Europe, for these diseases, and the success obtained with it by empirics has awakened the attention to it of Michaelis, Percival and Marino, Bredfeld, Schulte, Schenck, Schmidt, Kolkman, Taufflied, Carron du Villards, &c.

Dr. Gouzée says he has employed himself the ray's liver oil in many cases of rickets and always with advantage; two cases are related by him in his memoir in which the results, if attributable to the medicine, were really surprising.

Dr. Gouzée also adduces a case of white swelling, and another of chronic arthritis, in which the remedy seems to have been equally productive of benefit.

Dr. Gouzée has likewise employed the article in a case of white swelling of the elbow in a girl ten years of age, and in a case of chronic articular rheumatism in a soldier, in both with entire success. He has also used it in other affections, but without such marked advantage. He proposes to try it in tubercular phthisis occurring in scrofulous and rachitic persons.

The oil used by Dr. Gouzée is obtained from the liver of the *Raya pastinaca*, Linn.; it also, he thinks, is procured from the *Gadus merlucius*, Linn., but this